

How to Use Danish Church Records

Savannah Larson

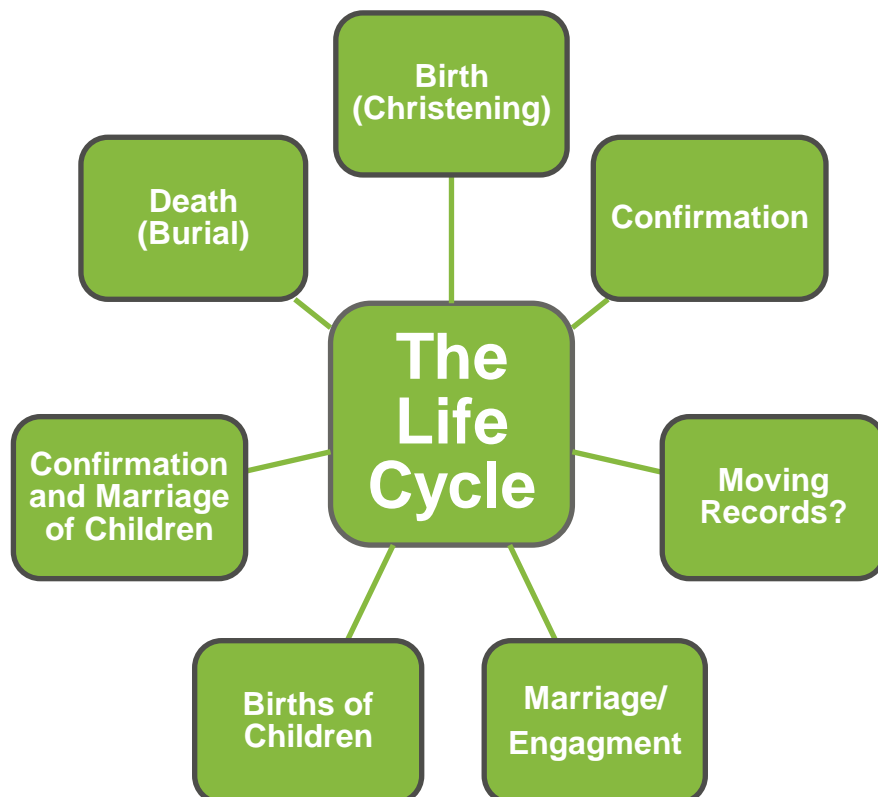
Savannah.larson@familysearch.org

OBJECTIVE

Learn how to research your Danish Ancestors through a better understanding of church records, research strategy, and record analysis

HISTORY

Date	Event
1537	Oldest church books in Denmark began in Hjørðkar parish, Aabenraa County
20 May 1645	Kind Christian IV sent out a resolution to the bishop of Sjælland ordering all parishes to begin a church book
1646	Jylland and Fyn began keeping church books
1683	King Christian V sent out Den Danske Lov, tightening record keeping laws
1814	Duplicate record books start
1828	Required to write children's surname in all records
1849	Freedom of Religion Began
1891	All parishes switch to a standardized record format



RECORD TYPES

Birth (Christening)

More important that the christening was recorded than the birth.

- **Mother's Introduction:** Around six weeks after the birth of a baby, introduction date is often listed with the birth record.

Confirmations

Became an ordinance in 1736 and happened around the age of 14.

Engagement and Marriage Records

Engagements were legally binding and needed two witnesses (bondsmen), after the engagement banns would be announced three Sundays – giving anyone in the congregation a chance to object before the wedding occurred.

Death and Burial Records

More important that the burial was recorded than the death.

Moving Lists

Every person leaving the parish needed permission from the parish priest

Absolutions

Records vary according to priest, some list just names, some have more information

Name Registers

Meant to me an index of the people in the congregation, it's references where you can find good records, but only as good as the priest who kept them. Ended in 1891.

STRATEGY

1. **Start with what you know**
2. **Create a research goal**
3. **Find a vital record**
4. **Follow the life cycle forward and backward**
 - a. **Use moving records when needed**
 - b. **Search for every child and sibling, they give you clues that can help you move forward**

Note: While my case study focuses heavily on church records. Church records should not be used in a vacuum, be sure to consult any available records for the time, including census, military levying rolls, vaccinations, estate records, etc.

INDEXED COLLECTIONS

Website	Birth/Christening	Marriage	Death/Burial
Ancestry.com	<u>1812-1918</u>	<u>1812-1918</u>	<u>1812-1918</u>
Danish Family Search	<u>early - 1900s</u>	<u>early - 1900s</u>	<u>early - 1900s</u>
FamilySearch.org	<u>1484-1941</u>	<u>1484-1941</u>	<u>1484-1941</u>
Sall Data	<u>early - 1900s</u>	<u>early - 1900s</u>	<u>early - 1900s</u>
MyHeritage	<u>1576-1919</u>	<u>1576-1919</u>	<u>1576-1919</u>

BROWSABLE IMAGE COLLECTIONS

Website	Birth/Christening	Marriage	Death/Burial
FamilySearch.org	<u>1484-1941</u> <u>1618-1923*</u>	<u>1484-1941</u> <u>1635-1916*</u>	<u>1484-1941</u> <u>1640-1917*</u>
MyHeritage	<u>1576-1919</u> <u>1618-1923*</u>	<u>1576-1919</u> <u>1635-1916*</u>	<u>1576-1919</u> <u>1640-1917*</u>
Findmypast	<u>1618-1923*</u>	<u>1635-1916*</u>	<u>1640-1917*</u>
Ancestry.com	<u>1618-1923*</u> <u>1631-1900s</u> <u>1812-1918</u>	<u>1631-1900s</u> <u>1635-1916</u> <u>1812-1918</u>	<u>1640-1917*</u> <u>1812-1918</u>
Danish Family Search	<u>early - 1900s</u> (incomplete)	<u>early - 1900s</u> (incomplete)	<u>early - 1900s</u> (incomplete)
Arkivalieronline	<u>early - 1900s</u>	<u>early - 1900s</u>	<u>early - 1900s</u>

This handout is a brief introduction into Danish church records, for a more in-depth background, visit the following page in the FamilySearch Wiki:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark_Church_Records

READING THE RECORDS

The following resources can help you as you navigate the records:

Scandinavian Handwriting Class:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/scandinavian-handwriting>

Danish Genealogical Word List:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Genealogical_Word_List#Variant_Forms_of_Words

Website to help you learn gothic script

[HTTPS://WWW.GOTISK.DK/INDEX.PHP](https://www.gotisk.dk/index.php)

WHAT'S NEXT?

Church records are just one of many helpful sources that can be used to find your Danish ancestors. While church records are a foundational step in your resource, there are other valuable sources that you will need as you move forward. The following resources can introduce you to other record types and strategies that may help you!

Census Records:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/intro-to-danish-census>

Military Levying Rolls:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/danish-military-levying-rolls>

Vaccination Records:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/denmark-vaccination-records>

Tax Records:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/denmark-tax-records-1660-1812>

Probate Records:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/denmark-probate-records>